

Sinclair Broadcasting is betraying the public trust with their decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election and is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

While Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, they are obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line -- or in the case of Sinclair, more propagandist programming espousing the political agenda of the major stockholders -- and less of what we need for our democracy, which is an assurance that all sides in a major political campaign are afforded equal time.

Sinclair is willing to flout the FCC's equal time rules, gambling that if they can help bring a win to their preferred presidential candidate, they will receive immunity for their crime against the public trust and knowing that if they are wrong and they are fined, well, an FCC fine is a drop in the bucket for a company this size, and is well worth risking as the potential legislative upside is so big for them if their candidate is elected.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

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